

Application No. 10/817,621

**a. Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6.

4 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a spring loaded mechanism comprising two arm members, each comprising a spring, on opposite sides of the mount portion for removably attaching the packer apparatus to a handle.

7 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a spring loaded clamp affixed to the mount portion.

8 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the spring loaded clamp comprises:

- (a) a first member;
- (b) a second member pivotally attached to the first member and oriented substantially transversely to the first member; and
- (c) a spring extending between the first member and the second member;

wherein an end of the first member comprises a first grip, an end of the second member adjacent the end of the first member comprises a second grip, an opposite end of the first member comprises a first arm, and an opposite end of the second member adjacent the opposite end of the first member comprises a second arm, and wherein the

clamp generally has a closed position for securing the mount on the handle, and an open position for releasing the mount from the handle.

9 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the first arm and the second arm are engaged when the clamp is in the closed position, and the first arm and the second arm are disengaged when the clamp is in the open position.

10 (Withdrawn). A packer apparatus for pushing leaves or other debris into a trash container, the packer apparatus comprising:

- (a) a planar head portion that is generally rectangular in shape;
- (b) a first side wall extending generally perpendicularly up from the head portion along a first, shorter edge of the head portion;
- (c) a second side wall extending generally perpendicularly up from the head portion along a first, longer edge of the head portion;
- (d) a third side wall extending generally perpendicularly up from the head portion along a second, shorter edge of the head portion that is opposite and oriented generally parallel to the first, shorter edge of the head portion; and
- (e) an angled handle with one end attached to a central portion of a generally planar side of the head portion.

11 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the angled handle comprises:

- (a) a lower section extending generally perpendicularly from a side of the head adjacent the side walls; and
- (b) an upper section extending from the lower section and being angled toward a second, longer, free edge of the head portion that is opposite and generally parallel to the first, longer edge of the head portion.

12 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the upper section and the lower section meet at an angle between about 45 and about 90 degrees.

13 (Currently amended). A packer apparatus for pushing or packing leaves or other debris into a trash container, the packer apparatus comprising:

- (a) a substantially planar head portion; and
- (b) a stationary brace connected on one side to a substantially planar underside of the head portion; and
- (c) a mount portion permanently adhered ~~connected~~ to an opposite side of the brace, the mount portion being generally cylindrical in shape and comprising an open end for receiving an end of a handle.

14 (Currently amended). The packer apparatus according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the brace comprises four triangular-shaped brace arms, each extending out from a central longitudinal axis of the brace.

15 (Original). The packer apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the brace portion is generally conical in shape, and comprises a base attached to the head portion, and a frustum attached to the first, open end of the open-ended mount portion, and wherein a longitudinal axis of the brace is aligned with a longitudinal axis of the open-ended mount portion.

16 (Previously amended). A packer apparatus for pushing or packing leaves or other debris into a trash container, the packer apparatus comprising:

- (a) a substantially planar head portion;
- (b) a brace connected on one side to a substantially planar underside of the head portion; and

(c) a mount portion connected to an opposite side of the brace, the mount portion being generally cylindrical in shape and comprising an open end for receiving an end of a handle; wherein the brace portion is generally conical in shape, and comprises a base attached to the head portion, and a frustum attached to the first, open end of the open-ended mount portion, and wherein a longitudinal axis of the brace is aligned with a longitudinal axis of the open-ended mount portion; and wherein the brace further comprises a plurality of spaced apart, similarly sized brace apertures extending through the frustum.

17 (Previously amended). The packer apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the head portion is generally circular in shape.

18 (Previously amended). The packer apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the head portion is generally rectangular in shape.

19 (Currently amended). A packer apparatus for pushing or packing leaves or other debris into a trash container, the packer apparatus comprising:

- (a) a substantially planar head portion; and
- (b) a brace connected on one side to a substantially planar underside of the head portion; and
- (c) a mount portion permanently adhered ~~connected~~ to an opposite side of the brace, the mount portion being generally cylindrical in shape and comprising an open end for receiving an end of a handle; wherein the head portion is formed as a grate.

20 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising a spring loaded mechanism comprising two arm members, each comprising a spring, for removably attaching the packer apparatus to a handle.

21 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the spring-loaded mechanism comprises:

(a) two mirror image arm members on opposite sides of the mount portion, each of the arm members comprising an upper, inwardly curved portion comprising a toothed jaw, and an outwardly extending lower arm portion, each of the jaws being extendible through an aperture in the mount portion; and

(b) a spring in a central portion of each of the arm members, each of the springs being movably wound around a spring pin, which passes through a mount housing extending from the mount portion, each of the springs comprising two spring ends, one of which presses against the mount portion, the other of which presses outward on the lower arm portion away from the mount portion;

wherein the jaws extend through the mount apertures unless the lower arm members are in a depressed position.

22 (Withdrawn). The packer apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a longitudinal axis of the mount portion is angled at about a 45 degree angle in relation to a longitudinal axis of the head portion.

23 (Original). The packer apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the substantially planar head portion is angled with respect to a longitudinal axis of the handle.

24 (Original). The packer apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein a longitudinal axis of the mount portion is angled in relation to a longitudinal axis of the head portion.